



## **McGregor W. Scott**

United States Attorney  
Eastern District of California

*Sacramento*  
501 I. Street, Ste 10-100  
Sacramento CA 95814  
Tel (916) 554-2700  
TTY (916) 554-2855

## **NEWS RELEASE**

*Fresno*  
2500 Tulare St., Suite 4401  
Fresno, CA 93721  
Tel (559) 497-4000  
TTY (559) 497-4500

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**March 19, 2007**

Contact: David Gappa, 559-497-4020

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae>

### **FORMER TULARE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTY** **SENTENCED TO EIGHT-YEAR PRISON TERM FOR** **RECEIVING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

FRESNO - United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that JOHN ALBERT SICKLER, 42, of Merced, California was sentenced to federal prison for a term of 96 months (8 years) by the Honorable Anthony W. Ishii for his conviction for one count of receiving visual depictions of the sexual exploitation of minors.

SICKLER had been employed as a deputy with the Tulare County Sheriff's Department from 1995 until the time of his arrest on September 13, 2005. The arrest was the culmination of several investigations by numerous law enforcement agencies. The following agencies investigated the defendant's suspected purchases of child pornography from numerous web sites, by use of credit and debit cards, as well as his receipt of child pornography via a peer-to-peer file sharing program: United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement offices in Fresno, California, Newark, New Jersey, and Fairfax, Virginia; the Fresno County Sheriff's Department Computer Crimes Unit; the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department; and the Suffolk County (New York) Police Department. Representatives of the Visalia Police Department and the California Department of Justice assisted in arresting the defendant.

According to Assistant United States Attorney David Gappa, who prosecuted the case, SICKLER admitted in a plea agreement that from approximately May 4, 2003, through September 11, 2005, he used a computer and modem to receive, by use of the internet, visual depictions of the sexual exploitation of minors. The offense involved material depicting prepubescent minors as well as images of minors engaged in sadistic or masochistic conduct or other violence. The defendant admitted that he received and possessed more than 600 images of the sexual exploitation of minors on computer hard drives, compact discs, or other storage devices.

SICKLER was remanded into federal custody upon pleading guilty on January 3, 2007. After serving his prison sentence, SICKLER will be on supervised release for 120 months during which his access to computers, the internet, and minors will be restricted. SICKLER will be required to register as a sex offender. He had no prior criminal record.

###